

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: NAC RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 174059 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MET SATURDAY MORNING AUGUST 10 TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD, (REFTEL). ALLIES WERE UNANIMOUS IN EXPRESSING: A) BEST WISHES TO NEW PRESIDENT; B) GRATITUDE FOR HIS MESSAGE AND DEEP SATISFACTION WITH ITS SUBSTANCE; C) PARTICULAR APPRECIATION THAT THIS COMMUNICATION TO ALLIES WAS AMONG VERY FIRST OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE PRESIDENT; D) GRATIFICATION AT THE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN THE CONDUCT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, AND E) BEST WISHES TO AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD WHO PRESS REPORTS INDICATE HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL TEAM TO OVERSEE AND ENSURE ORDERLY TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO NEW ADMINISTRATION AND HOPE THAT RUMSFELD WOULD SOON RESUME HIS FUNCTIONS AT NATO. END SUMMARY.

1. BEFORE GIVING THE FLOOR TO THE U.S. CHARGE (MCAULIFFE), ASYG PANSA SAID THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS. PANSA, CONFIDENT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR THE ENTIRE COUNCIL, EXTENDED BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT FORD AND EXPRESSED THE EARNEST HOPE THAT THE NEW PRESIDENT'S TERM IN OFFICE WILL BE CHARACTERIZED BY SUCCESS. PANSA SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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HE KNEW THE ENTIRE COUNCIL WAS ALSO MOST REASSURED BY THE PUBLIC

STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WHICH GIVE A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE CONTINUITY OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

2. THE ACTING SYG THEN READ TO THE COUNCIL A TELEGRAM WHICH SYG LUNS HAD SENT TO PRESIDENT FORD ON AUGUST 9, AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: AS YOU ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST WISHES FOR EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR HIGH MISSION. I FEEL SURE THAT UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP YOUR GREAT COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE WHOSE IDEALS WE ALL SHARE. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOU TO MEET THE MANY CHALLENGES WHICH JUSTIFY THE EXISTENCE OF A STRONG NATO FOR A DURABLE PEACE. SIGNED/JOSEPH LUNS. END TEXT. THE TEXT OF THIS TELEGRAM WAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS BY THE NATO SPOKESMAN YESTERDAY EVENING.

3. PANSAL ADDED THAT THIS ALLIANCE HAD BENEFITED FROM U.S. STANCH PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE ACUTELY AWARE OF THE MANY FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OUTGOING U.S. PRESIDENT. THEREFORE, PANSAL SAID HE WAS SURE THE COUNCIL JOINED HIM IN EXTENDING TO MR. NIXON ITS APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES.

4. MCAULIFFE THANKED PANSAL FOR HIS KIND WORDS AND READ TO COUNCIL THE MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD (REFTEL). MCAULIFFE NOTED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO ASK FOR THIS MEETING WERE RECEIVED THE PREVIOUS EVENING AT AN HOUR WHICH MADE IT IMPRACTICAL TO SUMMON THE COUNCIL INTO IMMEDIATE SESSION. ALLIES SHOULD NOTE HOWEVER THAT THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WAS SENT FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER MR. FORD TOOK HIS OATH OF OFFICE. MCAULIFFE WISHED ALLIES TO NOTE THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND OUR COMMON PURPOSES THEREUNDER WERE AMONG THE VERY FIRST THOUGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT AS HE ASSUMED HIS DUTIES.

5. PANSAL EXPRESSED THE DEEP APPRECIATION AND SATISFACTION OF THE COUNCIL FOR THIS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM PRESIDENT FORD, TAKING PARTICULAR NOTE THAT COUNCIL MESSAGE WAS SENT FROM WASHINGTON AFTER THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN ONE HOUR. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE COUNCIL WAS GRATIFIED TO HAVE THIS OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. PANSAL THEN READ A NEWS DISPATCH WHICH REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD WAS IN WASHINGTON AND THAT HE HAD BEEN NAMED BY PRESIDENT FORD AS A MEMBER OF A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO OVERSEE AND EXPEDITE THE ORDERLY TRANSFER OF PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. PANSAL WAS GRATIFIED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE WISE COUNSEL OF AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD, AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WHEN THIS TASK WAS FINISHED RUMSFELD WOULD BE RETURNING TO HIS DUTIES HERE.

6. ERALP (TURKEY) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT HIGHLY GRATIFYING. IN THAT CONNECTION, ERALP READ A REPORT OF SOME REMARKS MADE IN A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY BY

TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT CONCERNING PRESIDENT NIXON AND DEMOCRACY IN THE U.S. ERALP EXPRESSED BEST WISHES TO RUMSFELD IN HIS IMPORTANT NEW JOB WHICH THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR HOPED WOULD BE ONLY TEMPORARY.

7. CATALANO (ITALY) SAID THE ITALIAN PEOPLE WERE INSPIRED BY THE DIGNITY AND LACK OF RHETORIC WITH WHICH THE U.S. HAS PASSED ONE OF ITS MOST DIFFICULT TIMES IN HISTORY. HE SAID HIS PEOPLE ARE RELIEVED, AND GRATIFIED TO SEE HOW DEMOCRACY WORKS IN THE U.S. AMBASSADOR CATALANO PAID TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT NIXON, ESPECIALLY FOR HIS FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS, AND HE EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR THE MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD, SAYING THAT WHILE ITALY HAD NO DOUBTS ABOUT THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE, IT WAS REASSURING TO HEAR IT REAFFIRMED OFFICIALLY.

8. KRAPF (FRG) FOUND IT VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT THE NEW U.S. PRESIDENT ISSUED THIS MESSAGE TO THE NAC SO SOON AFTER ASSUMING OFFICE. THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE WILL BE MOST WELCOME IN BONN. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF KNOWING MR. FORD WHEN HE WAS A CONGRESSMAN, AND KRAPF WAS DELIGHTED THAT A MAN OF SUCH TALENTS AND CHARACTER WAS ASSUMING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE U.S. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR ALSO EXPRESSED FRG SATISFACTION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE. HE ADDED WITH REGARD TO RUMSFELD THAT HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT THE NEW PRESIDENT HAD CALLED UPON THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, AND THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WHEREVER RUMSFELD WORKS, SOMETHING GOOD WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DONE.

9. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR (CHORAFAS) ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH ALL THE SENTIMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BY PANSALIS AND THE OTHER PERMREPS. HE ADDED THE HOPE THAT WHEN RUMSFELD'S WORK IS FINISHED IN WASHINGTON HE WILL BE RETURNING TO THE NATO FOLD.

10. TOMASSON (ICELAND) LIKEWISE ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED AND ADDED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO ASYG PANSALIS FOR CALLING THE MEETING THIS MORNING. TOMASSON ALSO HOPED THAT RUMSFELD WILL RETURN TO HIS NATO POST.

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - ELTZ.

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11. THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL EACH IN TURN JOINED WITH THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS IN MAKING UNANIMOUS THE EXPRESSION OF THE SENTIMENTS

REPORTED ABOVE. THE BELGIAN (BAL) ALSO NOTED THE SPECIAL APPRECIATION OF THE BELGIAN DELEGATION THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS ONE OF THE VERY FIRST ACTS OF THE NEW PRESIDENT. THE CANADIAN (ROY) CALLED ATTENTION TO FACT THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD MET WITH NATO AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON WITHIN THE FIRST HOURS AFTER HE TOOK OFFICE. ROY ADDED THAT ALL OF CANADA HAS BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER TAKING PLACE IN THE CAPITAL OF ITS NEIGHBOR. THE NORWEGIAN (SELMER) REFERRED TO THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HIS PRIME MINISTER BY WHICH HIS COUNTRY WAS ALREADY ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S APPRECI-

ATION. THE FRENCH, LUXEMBOURG, DANISH, DUTCH AND PORTUGUESE REPRESENT-
ATIVES ASSOCIATED SELVES WITH THE CONSENSUS.

12. THE UK REP (LOGAN) EMPHASIZED THAT THE ALLIES WERE OF ONE SPIRIT IN THEIR AFFIRMATIVE REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE AND TO RECENT EVENTS. LOGAN PAID TRIBUTE TO THE FACT THAT THIS MESSAGE TO NATO WAS DISPATCHED BY THE PRESIDENT WITHIN HIS FIRST HOURS IN OFFICE, PROVING THAT AMONG MR. FORD'S FIRST THOUGHTS WERE THE ALLIANCE AND THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY. THE UK CHARGE, NOTING THE FREQUENT CYNICISM OF THE MEDIA AND HOW QUICK SOME NEWSMEN ARE TO SUSPECT DISUNITY IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIANCE, THOUGHT IT ESSENTIAL THAT THIS MESSAGE OR SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF IT BE RELEASED PROMPTLY TO THE NEWS MEDIA. KRAPF AGREED WITH LOGAN SAYING THAT WHILE IT WAS PERHAPS INAPPROPRIATE TO RELEASE THE FULL TEXT, THE MAIN THEMES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE PRESS BOTH BY THE NATO SPOKESMAN AND BY DELEGATIONS.

13. PANSA SUMMED UP NOTING THAT THE COUNCIL: A) REITERATED ITS GOOD WISHES TO PRESIDENT FORD; B) EXPRESSED ITS DEEP SATISFACTION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WHICH WAS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE; AND C) WAS VERY SATISFIED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL REMAIN AS U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE. PANSA SAID THE COUNCIL ALSO JOINS IN SENDING TO AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD ITS GOOD WISHES FOR THE IMPORTANT WORK HE IS UNDERTAKING AND TO HOPE THAT HE WILL RETURN TO THE FOLD OF THE ALLIANCE.

14. THE COUNCIL THEN TURNED ATTENTION TO THE TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE AND AUTHORIZED THE NATO SPOKESMAN TO RELEASE THE FOLLOWING:

BEGIN TEXT

THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MET THIS MORNING TO RECEIVE AND DISCUSS A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. IN HIS MESSAGE PRESIDENT FORD EMPHASIZED THE CENTRAL PLACE THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE HAS HAD AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. THE ALLIANCE HAS HAD HIS UNSWERVING SUPPORT THROUGHOUT HIS PUBLIC CAREER, AS IT HAS HAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRY. THIS WILL CONTINUE UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION.

PRESIDENT FORD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE RECENT REDEDICATION TO ALLIANCE PURPOSES PROVIDES A STRONG NEW FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD AN EVEN STRONGER ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP AND A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD.

THE PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE TO BE A FOCAL POINT OF ACTIVITY IN SYNCHRONIZING THE EFFORTS OF THE ALLIES TO RELAX TENSION WITH OUR ADVERSARIES. HE STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTINUE IN THE COUNCIL TO PRACTICE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS.

PRESIDENT FORD NOTED THAT, AT HIS REQUEST, SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN THE CONDUCT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. FOREIGN POLICIES AND THAT HE HAS HIS FULL CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT.

THE COUNCIL EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

END TEXTMCAULIFFE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - ELTZ.

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